

I will touch on this in dealing, elsewhere, with my experiments on carnivorous animals. Meantime, I may say that it seems to me to tell against mimicry in relation to the host, but not against mimicry for protection from enemies.

Finally, we have the Cuckoo as a possible model for mimicry, suggesting that it, too, sometimes possesses nauseousness. I refer to the resemblance between the females of the Emerald Cuckoo and of *Campophaga nigra* and *hartlaubi*. It even extends to the bunched appearance of the rump, noticeable in the field. I am aware of the objections to the view that these and the other resemblances referred to here are real cases of mimicry and, up to a certain point, share in them myself, but I feel that they are probably strongly protective and that the element of real mimicry in them is probably considerable.

Major Meiklejohn's summary of known fact and of points on which further information is needed is both interesting and likely to be highly useful to investigators. In the one or two places in which the above remarks happen to have overlapped his statement, it has not been done with any idea either of "poaching" or of criticizing—though I think that the view that the Cuckoo bases its choice on egg-coloration requires careful testing. I have merely felt that it is sometimes suggestive to state things from slightly different standpoints. Elsewhere I have tried to suggest one or two additional points for investigation.

VIII.—Obituary.

ALFRED JOHN NORTH.

THE death of Mr. A. J. North, C.M.B.O.U., which took place somewhat suddenly from heart failure on 6 May, 1917, was briefly announced in the October number of 'The Ibis.'

Born on 11 June, 1855, at Melbourne, the second son of Henry and Mary T. North, of Moonee Ponds, Victoria,

young North was educated at the Public School and subsequently at the Grammar School, Melbourne. He had an inborn taste for ornithology, but was for some years engaged in business in Melbourne, where he was one of the original members of the Field Naturalists' Club. In 1878 he made the acquaintance of Ramsay, whom he only survived by five months, and who was at that time the Curator of the Australian Museum. A few years later he joined Ramsay in Sydney, where he was employed to arrange the Ramsay collection of birds and to prepare a catalogue of the eggs of the Australian Museum. About this time he was appointed assistant to the Curator, Dr. Ramsay, and subsequently, in 1891, Ornithologist of the Australian Museum, a post which he retained until his death.

The ornithological writings of Mr. North chiefly deal with the life-history and habits of Australian birds, especially of those which occur in the immediate vicinity of Sydney. His most important publication is undoubtedly the 'Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania,' published by the Trustees of the Australian Museum at Sydney between the years 1901-1914. The work is in four quarto volumes and is a second edition, though entirely re-written, of a previous work published in 1889. An idea of its scope and value will be gained from the notice of the last part issued, to be found in 'The Ibis' for 1915 (p. 373).

Mr. North also wrote an account of the birds of the Horn Scientific Expedition in Central Australia, 1896, and of the birds collected by the Calvert Exploring Expedition in Western Australia, 1898. Many other contributions from his pen have appeared in the publications of the Australian Museum, the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, and the 'Victorian Naturalist,' as well as in 'The Ibis,' to which he sent several short papers from 1893 onwards.

For his ornithological work Mr. North was elected a Colonial Member of our Union in 1903, and he had the

previous year become a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, but he was never a member of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union as he had no faith in the work of his amateur contemporaries. This feeling was so strong that it detracted from the value of his work, as, rather than incorporate anything in his writings that he deemed doubtful, he ignored the work of most of his fellow Australians.

It was in the matter of the detailed study of the life-history of those birds especially which occur in the neighbourhood of Sydney that his best work was done, and his neglect of modern methods in nomenclature and taxonomy in no way detract from the value of these observations, and in many respects he was one of the best ornithologists that Australia has yet produced.

CECIL GODFREY RAWLING.

Though not a member of the Union, the death of Brigadier-General Rawling, C.I.E., C.M.G., by a casual shell on the 28th of October, 1917, on the western front cannot be passed over without notice in these pages.

Born in 1870 and educated at Clifton, Rawling received his first commission in the Somerset Light Infantry and proceeded immediately to India. He had a passion for high mountains and the exploration of the waste places in the world, and in 1903 he mapped over 40,000 square miles on the Tibetan border. He was an invaluable member of the Tibetan expedition of the following year, so that, when the Jubilee Expedition of the B. O. U. to explore the snow mountains of Dutch New Guinea was proposed and organized by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant under the leadership of Mr. W. Goodfellow in 1909, Captain Rawling (as he then was) was asked to go as Surveyor of the expedition on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society. On the return of Mr. Goodfellow through illness Rawling was appointed leader of the party, and though they failed to climb Mt. Cartensz they discovered a new pigmy race of natives, and made very valuable collections in all branches of

zoology. The story of the expedition was told by Rawling in his book, 'The Land of the New Guinea Pigmies.'

On his return home his mind reverted to the Himalaya, and the great ambition of his life was to climb Mt. Everest, which he believed could be done from the northern or Tibetan side. On the outbreak of the war Rawling was appointed to command one of the service battalions of his old regiment. He took his battalion to France in the spring of 1915, and had been fighting there with distinguished success until a stray shell killed him while talking to a friend just outside his Brigade Headquarters.

For his exploring work he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society only last year, and his death ends a career of great achievement and of still greater possibilities in the future.

Commander The Hon. R. O. B. BRIDGEMAN, R.N.

The following details of the death of Commd. Bridgeman, M.B.O.U., a notice of whose death appeared in 'The Ibis,' for last April (p. 247), recently appeared in the 'Times' and will be read with interest by his fellow-members of the B. O. U. :—

"Details of a series of adventures which befell Flight-Commander Edwin Roland Moon, D.S.O., R.N., of Southampton, who was at first reported killed in East Africa, but who is now a prisoner in the hands of the Germans, and Commander the Hon. Richard Bridgeman, D.S.O., R.N., who lost his life, have been received :—

"It appears from the story of a captured German merchant captain and from native sources that a seaplane carrying the two officers was forced to land in the delta of the Rufigi River owing to engine trouble. As they could not repair the damage the officers burnt their machine. Flight-Commander Moon swam across a stream which swarmed with crocodiles with a view to finding a boat or canoe, but failed in his quest. On the following day he again crossed the river, but was carried down stream by the

ebb tide before he could land, and had to force his way back through the mangroves. Apart from coconuts the officers had had nothing to eat or drink since leaving their station. At nightfall, after much weary marching, they discovered an empty house, and were able to make a raft on which they set off. Their only relief from the mosquitos was to dip their heads under the water. The coconut milk which they carried in bottles had turned sour by this time, and by the evening of the third day both were completely exhausted. Commander Bridgeman, indeed, was almost insensible.

“The tide carried the raft out to sea and the raft became waterlogged, so that Flight-Commander Moon had to support his comrade in his arms in order to keep the almost unconscious man’s head out of water. The two spent thirteen hours on the raft on the fourth day, and for at least nine hours were on the open sea. Again and again Commander Bridgeman was washed off the raft and rescued again by his brother-officer, until at last he died of exhaustion and exposure. During the afternoon of the fourth day the tide carried the raft back to within a short distance of the shore, and the survivor managed to regain the land. In his final struggle to shore his face, hands, and feet were severely cut by the rocks. A native conducted him to two Germans who were living near, and there he collapsed. He soon recovered, however, and is now quite well. Commander Bridgeman’s body was washed ashore a few days afterwards, and was buried by the Germans.”

IX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Despott on Maltese Birds.

[Ornithological notes from the Maltese Islands (July-December, 1916).
By G. Despott, M.B.O.U. *Archivum Melitense*, 1917, pp. 251-256.]

Mr. Despott, whose paper on the birds of Malta was published in ‘The Ibis’ last year, continues to record all ornithological occurrences of interest in the Maltese